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Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks News Release

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Shuttle service in Sequoia National Park to begin May 23

Sequoia National Park, California — Summer shuttle service in the Giant Forest area of Sequoia National Park starts this Memorial Day weekend. The shuttles, which run May 23 to September 8, offer a free, simple way to travel through the famous giant sequoia grove and to visitor centers, campgrounds, shops, and lodgings.

Four routes connect Giant Forest Museum with the main features in Sequoia: Moro Rock and Crescent Meadow, the General Sherman Tree, Wolverton picnic area and trailhead, Lodgepole Visitor Center and Campground, Wuksachi Lodge, and Dorst Campground. These shuttle routes offer people many options to combine shuttle rides with walks back to their vehicles.

In addition to the free routes within the park, the City of Visalia offers the gateway shuttle from Visalia, Exeter, or Three Rivers up to the Giant Forest. This service requires a reservation and costs \$15 round trip, which includes the park entrance fee. Reservations and information are available at www.sequoiashuttle.com. Both the gateway and the in-park free shuttles are operated in partnership with the City of Visalia.

On weekends and holidays, including July 4-7, Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road will be closed to private vehicles. Those with handicap-parking placards or with wilderness permits for that trailhead may continue to travel the road. Shuttles are wheelchair accessible, and a number of them kneel to allow for easier boarding.

As the summer season begins, the parks are asking visitors to conserve water. Snowfall last winter was far below average, and the parks are starting to implement water-saving measures. Fire danger will be high, so caution with matches, cigarettes, barbecues, and campfires is critical.

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See the park's website for more trip-planning information: www.nps.gov/seki. Plan to join in on ranger walks and talks when you get to the park; schedules are available on the website.

SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, which lie side-by-side in the southern Sierra Nevada in central California, serve as a prime example of nature's size, beauty, and diversity. With the world's largest trees (by volume), grand mountains, rugged foothills, deep canyons, vast caverns, and the highest point in the lower 48 states, it is a place that attracts 1.6 million visitors a year from across the U.S. and the world. Visitor activities vary by season and elevation. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/seki or call 559-565-3341.

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